

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JAPAN'S BILATERAL AID 1977: PRELIMINARY
FIGURES ON GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

1. SUMMARY. IN 1977, PRELIMINARY FIGURES SHOW SHARP
RISE IN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN SHARE OF JAPAN'S
BILATERAL AID, AT EXPENSE OF ASIA WHICH ALWAYS HAS LED
OVERWHELMINGLY AMONG RECIPIENT AREAS FOR JAPAN'S AID.
END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 12 MAINICHI SHIMBUN PUBLISHED REGIONAL
BREAKDOWN OF JAPAN'S 1977 BILATERAL ODA DISBURSEMENT.
THIS WAS ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE GENERALLY ACCURATE, THOUGH
PRELIMINARY, BY MOFA AID SPECIALIST ENGAGED IN HELPING
PREPARE JAPAN'S DAC SUBMISSION FOR THIS YEAR.

3. JAPAN'S TOTAL BILATERAL DISBURSEMENTS ROSE 19.5 PCT
OVER 1976, TO \$899 MILLION; BUT HER DISBURSEMENT FOR
AID TO ASIA DROPPED BY \$44 MILLION (8 PCT). ASIA'S
SHARE OF JAPAN'S TOTAL BILATERAL AID DROPPED FROM 77.4
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PCT IN 1976 TO 60 PCT IN 1977. THIS DROP IS UNPRECEDENT-
ED; DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS THE ASIAN SHARE, THOUGH
GENERALLY ON THE DOWNTREND, HAD REMAINED IN THE 75-80
PCT RANGE.

4. BY CONTRAST, ODA DISBURSEMENTS FOR MIDDLE EASTERN
COUNTRIES REPORTEDLY ROSE TO \$111 MILLION IN 1977 FROM

\$9 MILLION IN 1976, REACHING 12.4 PCT OF JAPAN'S BILATERAL AID IN 1977 AS AGAINST 1.3 PCT IN 1976. MEANWHILE, BILATERAL ODA DISBURSEMENTS TO AFRICAN NATIONS NEARLY DOUBLED FROM \$81 MILLION (10.7 PCT) IN 1976 TO \$153 MILLION (17.1 PCT) IN 1977. OTHER RECIPIENT AREAS (LATIN AMERICA, EUROPE, OCEANIA, OTHERS) SHOWED INSIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN TERMS JAPAN'S GLOBAL AID EFFORT. LEADING GAINERS AMONG RECIPIENT COUNTRIES REPORTEDLY INCLUDE IRAN, IRAQ, EGYPT, ALGERIA, NIGERIA, NIGER, ZAIRE, AND THE SUDAN, BUT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DID NOT SPECIFICALLY CONFIRM THIS.

5. COMMENT. RESOURCE-RICH AREAS OUTSIDE ASIA IN 1977 SEEM TO HAVE FATTENED SUDDENLY THEIR SLICE OF THE JAPANESE AID PIE. FOREIGN MINISTRY SPECIALIST NOTED THAT WHILE THESE RESULTS WOULD NOT PLEASE ASEAN, LARGE INCREASE IN JAPAN'S 1977 AID COMMITMENTS TO ASEAN WOULD MOLLIFY SUCH IRRITATION AS MEMBER NATIONS MIGHT FEEL. MANSFIELD

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